



Indiana State Excise Police News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Excise Police Issue 1,636 Tickets in Bloomington in 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. – Indiana State Excise Police officers issued 1,629 summonses in Monroe County in 2007. That number is double last year's total of 880 summonses issued in the county. Excise police issued more summonses in Monroe County than any other county in Indiana in 2007.

Most summonses issued in both years were for illegal consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages. The following is a list of a few of the 2007 charges:

- *905 minors were charged with illegal possession, consumption or transportation of alcoholic beverages.
- *319 tickets were issued for possession of false identification.
- *45 adults were charged with furnishing alcoholic beverages to a minor.
- *45 minors were charged with being in a tavern or liquor store.
- *15 people were arrested for public intoxication.
- *13 people were arrested on drug-related charges.
- *287 additional charges were filed for a variety of other offenses.

In 2006, excise police charges in Monroe County included:

- *437 minors were charged with illegal possession, consumption or transportation of alcoholic beverages.
- *130 tickets were issued for possession of false identification.
- *52 adults were charged with furnishing alcoholic beverages to a minor.
- *15 people were arrested on drug-related charges.
- *246 additional charges were filed for a variety of other offenses.

The increased arrest and ticket numbers are primarily the result of two factors: a renewed focus by the department on and near Indiana University and a cooperative relationship with several alcoholic beverage establishments in Bloomington.

“In March 2007, Monroe County changed excise police districts,” Officer Travis Thickstun said. “With that change came a fresh group of officers with new energy and drive to accomplish the agency’s primary mission: to reduce underage use and possession of alcohol and tobacco.”

Additionally, several local alcoholic beverage retailers have continued or begun to work more closely with excise police, principally on preventing the use of false identification. Excise police regularly work at grocery stores, for example, in an unidentified capacity to catch those using false IDs and adults purchasing alcoholic beverages for minors.

Along with enforcement activity, excise police regularly provide training programs for establishments and their employees. These programs include not only a basic understanding of Indiana’s alcoholic beverage laws and rules, but more in depth training on detecting false IDs.

Excise police training programs scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, and Thursday, January 31, in Ellettsville will cover basic alcoholic beverage laws and rules and false IDs, respectively. More information on these programs is available at www.in.gov/atc/isep/training.htm.

Through the year, excise officers were assisted by officers from Indiana State Police, I.U. Police Department, Bloomington Police Department and Monroe County Sheriff’s Office.

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on enforcing Indiana’s alcohol and tobacco statutes.